State 319/NPS Management Programs and 303d Priorities: A Great Match

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State NPS Management Programs – What and Why

- Required by CWA Section 319(b) as prerequisite for grant funding under 319(h)
- New 319 guidelines require states update NPS Management Programs and keep them current on a 5-year schedule
- Over half of states updating Programs now
- Why? Overall roadmap for NPS priorities, partnerships, resources, short/long term program goals
  - Strategic utilization of 319 resources

"Key Components of an Effective State NPS Management Program"

Appendix A to 319 Grant Guidelines, April 2013

1. Explicit short- and long-term goals, objectives, and strategies	2. Strengthened partnerships
3. Integration of programs	4. Resource allocation to protection & restoration
5. Identification & Prioritization of waters	6. Adaptive management to achieve & maintain WQ standards
7. Efficient & Effective Implementation	8. Review, Evaluation & Revision using measures of success

1. Explicit short- and long-term goals, objectives, and strategies

State program contains explicit short- and long-term goals, objectives, and strategies to restore and protect surface water and ground water, as appropriate.

- Strategically focused program to maximize WQ benefits
- Annual milestones to demonstrate reasonable progress
- Objectives to address surface and ground water
  - Implementation
  - Tracking of progress
- Goals that are well integrated with other programs
- Periodic revision to reflect both progress and problems

2. Strengthened partnerships

The state strengthens its working partnerships and linkages to appropriate state, interstate, tribal, regional, and local entities (including conservation districts), private sector groups, citizens groups, and federal agencies.

- Collaborative efforts to coordinate implementation in priority watersheds
- Both informal and formal collaborations are useful
- State ensures capacity is present to effectively carry out implementation projects
- Seek public involvement on significant program changes
- Ensures objectives are integrated with economic, social and cultural goals

3. Integration of programs

The state uses a combination of statewide programs and on-the-ground projects to achieve water quality benefits; efforts are well-integrated with other relevant state and federal programs.

- Flexibility in program development to meet state needs (use of a combination of programs)
- Emphasis on the watershed management approach
- Explanation of prioritization approach
- Integration with relevant programs to align priority setting and resources to increase efficiency and environmental results
  - TMDLs
  - CWSRF
  - USDA farm bill conservation programs
  - Source water protection
  - State nutrient framework or strategy
  - Point source programs
  - Climate change planning

4. Resource allocation to protection & restoration

The state program describes how resources will be allocated between (a) abating known water quality impairments from NPS pollution and (b) protecting threatened and high quality waters from significant threats caused by present and future NPS impacts.

- **Description of approach to prioritize and align resources to both protection and restoration based on WQ challenges and circumstances**
- **Context: 319 guidelines allow protection projects if cited as a priority in NPS Management Plan**

5. Identification & Prioritization of waters

The state program identifies waters and watersheds impaired by NPS pollution as well as priority unimpaired waters for protection. The state establishes a process to assign priority and to progressively address identified watersheds by conducting more detailed watershed assessments, developing watershed-based plans and implementing the plans.

- **Identification of waters impaired by NPS**
- **Revision of impaired waters with more up-to-date assessment information**
- **Links prioritization & implementation strategy to other programs and efforts (component #3)**
- **Establishes a process to assign priority and address waters through assessments, WBPs & plan implementation**
  - **Human health (source water protection)**
  - **Degree to which TMDL allocations to NPS depend on NPS reduction achievement**
  - **Readiness to proceed among stakeholders and partners**
  - **Availability/access of funding sources other than 319(h)**
  - **Value of watershed or ground water area to public**

6. Adaptive management to achieve & maintain WQ standards

The state implements all program components required by section 319(b) of the Clean Water Act, and establishes strategic approaches and adaptive management to achieve and maintain water quality standards as expeditiously as practicable. The state reviews and upgrades program components as appropriate. The state program includes a mix of regulatory, nonregulatory, financial and technical assistance, as needed.

- **Identification of measures to control NPS pollution and key programs to achieve implementation of measures**
- **Description of process to coordinate and integrate with other programs used to implement NPS controls in the state**
- **Schedule with goals, objectives, milestones for implementation**
- **Federal land management and financial assistance programs**
- **Description of monitoring and evaluations to determine program effectiveness**

7. Efficient & Effective Implementation

The state manages and implements its NPS management program efficiently and effectively, including necessary financial management.

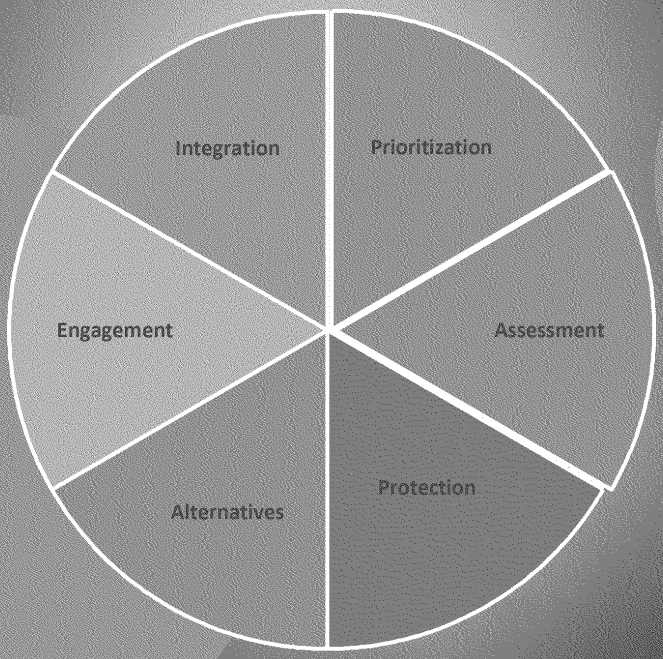
- Achievement of annual satisfactory progress
- Process for identifying priority problems and/or watersheds
- Deployment of resources in an efficient manner to address priorities
- Manages finances in a way that maximizes WQ benefits
- Ensures that 319 funds complement & leverage funds available for technical and financial assistance from other sources and agencies

8. Review, Evaluation & Revision using measures of success

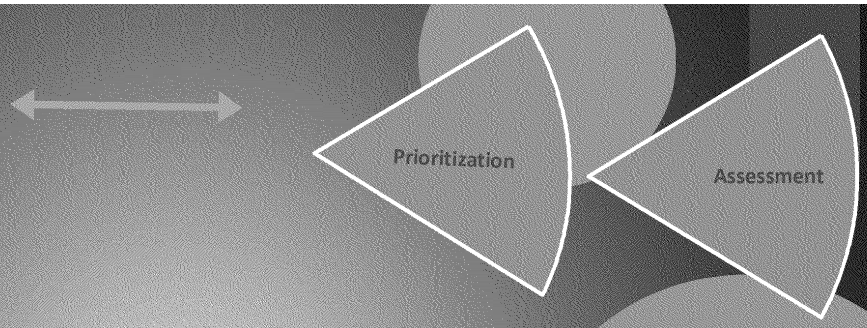
The state reviews and evaluates its NPS management program using environmental and functional measures of success, and reviews its NPS management program at least every five years.

- Establish appropriate measures of progress in meeting goals & objectives outlined in component #1
- Description of monitoring/evaluation strategy and schedule to measure success
- Integrates evaluation strategy with other federal resource inventories & monitoring programs
- Reviews and revises NPS management Program every 5 years
  - Targets out-of-date portions of the program
  - Updates annual milestones
  - Updates schedule for implementation

303d Vision for Restoration & Protection



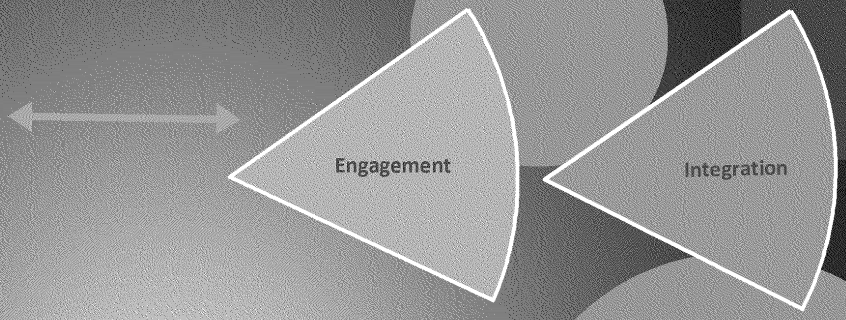
1. Explicit short- and long-term goals, objectives, and strategies



NPSMP Component #1 Links with 303d Prioritization & Assessment

- Goals that are well integrated with other programs
- Ability to demonstrate reasonable progress towards goals

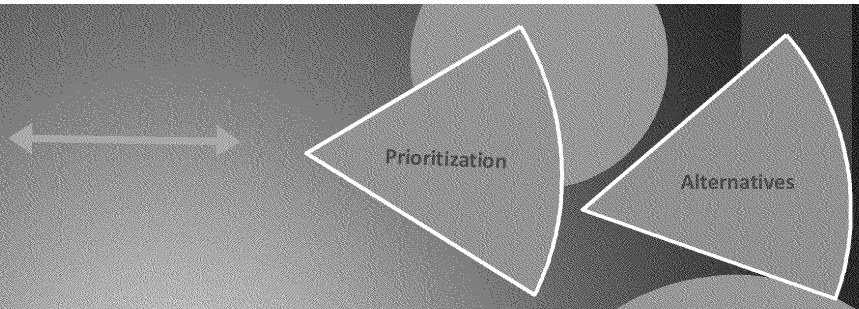
2. Strengthened partnerships



NPSMP Component #2 Links with 303d Engagement & Integration

- Improving communication, involvement, & partnerships
- Collaborative efforts to coordinate implementation in priority watersheds
- Coordinate to establish priorities in support of WQ goals
- Engage implementation programs to achieve WQ goals

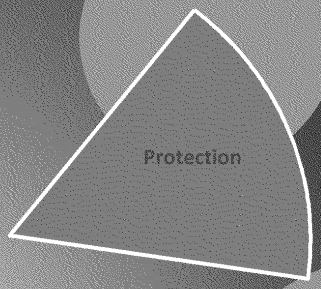
3. Integration of programs



NPSMP Component #3 Links with 303d Prioritization & Alternatives

- Integration with other programs to align priority setting processes and resources to increase efficiency
- Linking priorities can aid in strategic focus of limited resources
- Use of a combination of programs to achieve WQ benefits
- Use of alternative approaches to achieve WQ goals

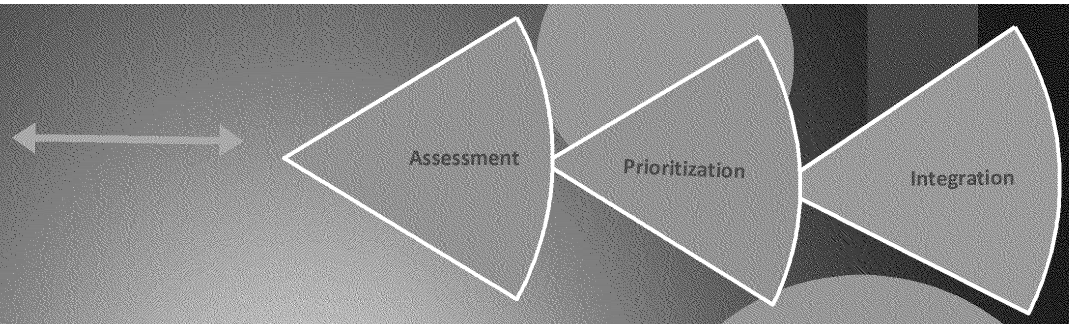
4. Resource allocation to protection & restoration



NPSMP Component #4 Links with 303d Protection

- Resources allocated to protection where State's program priorities align
- Protection efforts and approaches are identified in a manner consistent with a State's prioritization system

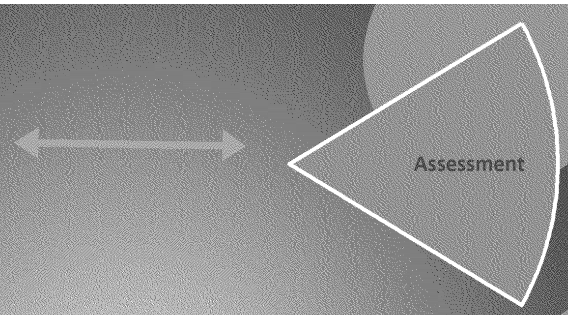
5. Identification & Prioritization of waters



NPSMP #5 Links with 303d Assessment, Prioritization & Integration

- Identification of impaired waters (including through 303d)
- Express priorities in context of State's broader, overall WQ goals
- Many option for setting priorities; have a plan, be flexible
- Link prioritization & implementation strategy to other programs

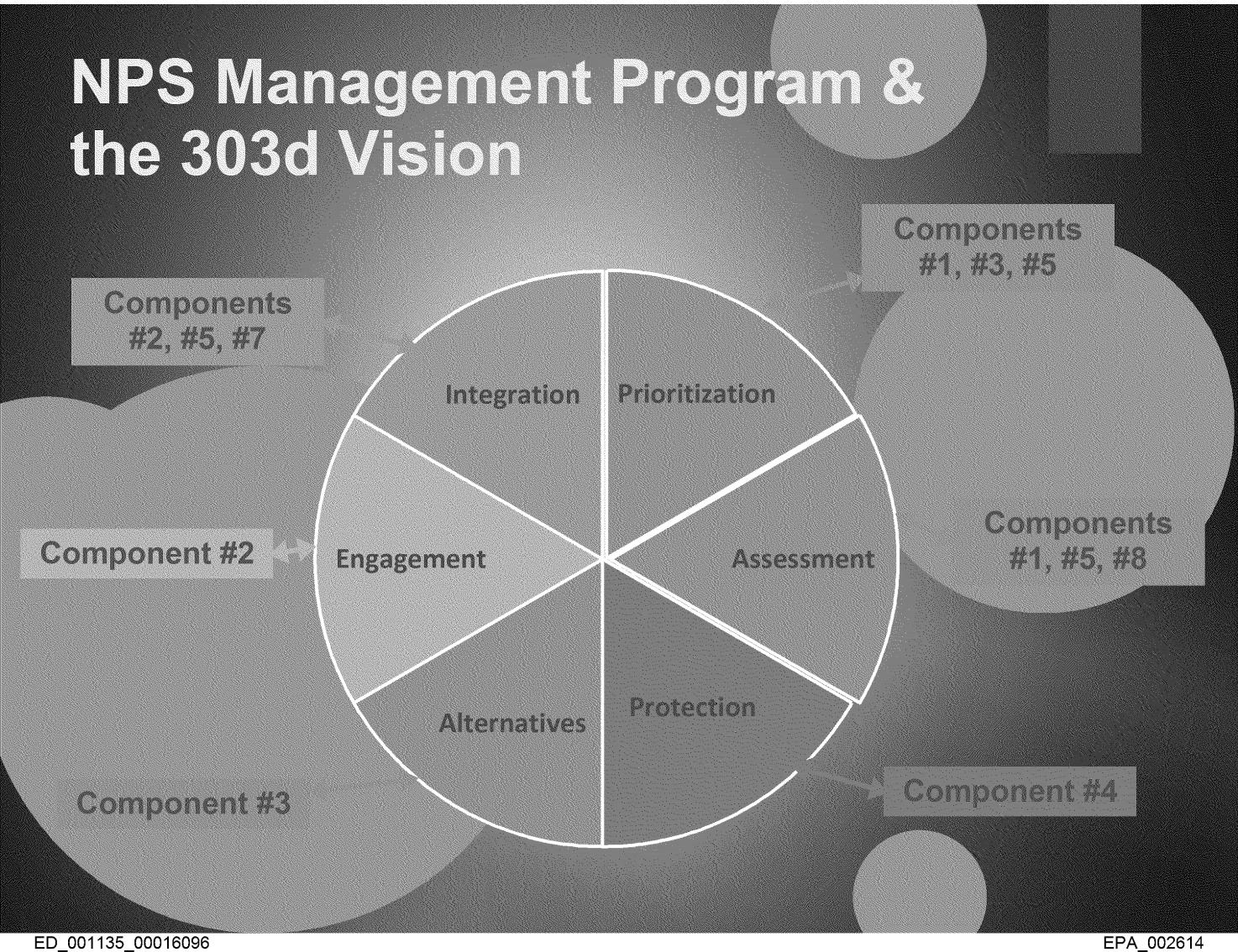
8. Review, Evaluation & Revision using measures of success



NPSMP Component #8 Links with 303d Assessment

- Description of monitoring & evaluation strategy to monitor success
- States develop framework to ensure data are available to measure each goal

NPS Management Program & the 303d Vision



State NPS Program Priority Setting

* Common criteria for prioritizing impaired waters for WBP development and implementation
  * Are impairments attributable to NPS (N, sediment, DO, bacteria, etc)
  * Is the water body on the 303d list?
  * Does the water body have a TMDL? What is the TMDL priority?
  * Is the waterbody a special [illegible] ONRW or state equivalent, sensitive aquatic life use, sensitive [illegible] water water areas, beaches, etc.
  * Is the water a public water [illegible]? Population served?
  * Does the water body have an existing WBP (perhaps not a 9 element plan yet) or some type of plan that establishes goals

State NPS Program Priority Setting

- Common procedures
  - Many states rank waters or watersheds qualitatively.
  - Criteria not equally weighted. Often apply a weight to essential criteria.
  - Scores lead to a High, Medium or Low priority
- Most seek input on specific criteria and/or ranking from key partner agencies
- Many states further assess high priority watersheds as part of the priority process or as part of the watershed planning process.

State NPS Prioritization

Commonly utilized tools:

- Recovery Potential Screening
- State Data Sources [illegible] Monitoring, 303d, TMDL, SALU, ONRW, Wetland, Nutrient Mgmt Plans, etc.
- USGS Sparrow – Surface WQ Modeling

Recovery Potential Screening

Tools for Comparing Impaired Waters Restorability

Working with USDA to achieve water quality goals

- National Water Quality Initiative: 5% EQIP funding devoted to WQ issues in small watersheds recommended by WQ agency, which monitors results in subset of watersheds
- NWQI has advanced the Ag/WQ partnership in many states
- Sustaining these collaborative working relationships should be our long-term objective → resources for WQ implementation
- How ?

Working with USDA to achieve water quality goals

- Participate actively in NRCS decisionmaking process
  - EQIP subcommittee may be especially useful (vs state technical committee)
- Engage with NRCS in a dialogue about state WQ priorities and watersheds; share maps, information
  - Single integrated set of priorities
  - Where WQA is investing, e.g., 319, state WQ $$
- Explore how you can support NRCS
  - Outreach to landowners
  - Pay cost-share to help draw landowners in
  - Fund a WQA/NRCS liaison

Thanks – Questions?